

**REMARKS**

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application and for indicating that claims 4 and 6 contain allowable subject matter.

**Disposition of Claims**

Claims 1-6 were pending in this application. By way of this reply, new claim 7 has been added to the Specification. Accordingly, claims 1-7 are now pending in this application. Claim 1 is independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1.

**Claim Amendments**

Independent claim 1 has been amended by way of this reply to clarify minor errors. Specifically, independent claim 1 has been amended to require a mirror member comprising a front surface, wherein the mirror member is movable relative to the input optical path and the output optical path, and wherein the front surface is allowed to face the input optical path and the output optical path, a first region comprising a pair of light reflection surfaces that cross each other with a given angle, and a second region comprising plural pairs of light reflection surfaces such that the neighboring light reflection surfaces cross each other with the given angle. Further, amended independent claim 1 has been amended to require that the first region and the second region are arranged on the front surface of the mirror member and along the moving direction of the mirror member. No new subject matter has been added by way of these amendments, as support for these amendments may be found, for example, in claim 1, in Figures 13A and 13B of the present application, and in paragraph [0014] of the publication of

the Specification. Further, dependent claims 2-6 have been amended to correct minor errors and to correspond to amendments made to independent claim 1. No new matter has been added by way of the amendments to claims 2-6.

**Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 1-3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,094,293 issued to Yokoyama *et al.* ("Yokoyama"). Independent claim 1 has been amended in this reply as discussed above. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the claims as amended, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

One or more embodiments of the invention are directed to an optical switch for switching between input and output optical paths. An optical switch **21** in accordance with one or more embodiments of the invention comprises a mirror unit **25**, which comprises a mirror block **50** (*see, e.g.*, publication of the Specification, Figure 5, paragraph [0045]). In one or more embodiments of the invention, mirror block **50** comprises light reflection surfaces **51**, **52**, **53**, **54**, integrally formed on a front surface of mirror block **50** (*see, e.g.*, publication of the Specification, Figure 8, paragraph [0052]).

As seen with respect to Figure 8 of the publication of the Specification, on one portion of the front surface of mirror block **50**, first light reflection surface **51**, third light reflection surface **53**, fourth light reflection surface **54**, and second light reflection surface **52** are formed in a W shape such that the reflection surfaces make an angle of 90 degrees between each other. On another portion of the front surface of mirror block **50**, first light reflection surface **51** and second light reflection surface **52** are formed in a V shape such that the surfaces **51**, **52** also make an angle of 90 degree therebetween. In other words, on one portion of mirror block **50**, first light reflection surface **51**, third light reflection surface **53**, second light reflection surface

52, and fourth light reflection surface 54 are arranged symmetrically on a face with respect to a center plane, while on another portion of mirror block 50, first light reflection surface 51 and second light reflection surface 52 are arranged symmetrically in a face with respect to a center plane.

Accordingly, amended independent claim 1 requires that the first region and the second region are arranged on the front surface of the mirror member and along the moving direction of the mirror member.

Yokoyama does not disclose at least the above limitations of amended independent claim 1. In contrast to the invention, Yokoyama discloses 4 separate reflectors 312A-312D (*see* Yokohama, Figure 21, col. 14, lines 55-67). Specifically, Yokoyama discloses movable reflectors 312B and 312C, which are separate from optical switch 310. Further, Yokoyama discloses two sets of devices 316B and 316C (part of mechanism 314) for biasing the movable reflectors 312B and 312C (*see* Yokohama, Figure 21, col. 15, lines 15-23). Thus, it is clear that Yokoyama does not disclose at least a first region and a second region arranged on the front surface of the mirror member and along the moving direction of the mirror member, as required by the claimed invention.

In view of the above, Yokoyama fails to show or suggest the invention as recited in amended independent claim 1. Thus, amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Yokoyama. Claims 2-6, directly or indirectly dependent from claim 1, are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

#### **New Claim**

By way of this reply, new claim 7 has been added to specify that the first region and the second region are integrally formed on the mirror member. No new matter has been

added by way of new claim 7, as support for new claim 7 may be found, for example, in Figures 13A and 13B and in paragraph [0014] of the publication of the Specification. New claim 7 depends from amended independent claim 1. As claim 1 has been shown above to be allowable, new claim 7 is allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, entry and allowance of new claim 7 is respectfully requested.

### Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 15115/141001).

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Respectfully submitted,

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